

Remarks

Applicants note the Office's comments regarding WO 02/094833 A1. The Office indicates that the dihydropyrrolopyrazole structure of Group I does not present a contribution over the prior art because it has been previously disclosed in WO 02/094833 A1. As such, according to the Office, Group I does not share a special technical feature with Group II. Furthermore, the Office asserts that the species listed do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical feature "in view of the fact that the core of the chemical is not novel and has been previously disclosed in the prior art (WO02/094833 A1)." While not acquiescing to the merits of these statements by the Office, Applicants have understood said statements as merely supporting its proposition that the restriction is proper, not as a rejection over the art. Applicants will, thus, refrain from any further comment pertaining to WO 02/094833 A1 at this point in the prosecution of the present application.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the elected claims and passage of this case to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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